



APPROVED 5/20/2015 (TAC)

SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES
City of Scottsdale
Environmental Quality Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Scottsdale Community Design Studio
7506 E Indian School Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT: Alisa McMahon, Chair
Larry Person, Vice-Chair (Arrived at 5:50 p.m.)
Floyd Marsh, Board Member
Stephan Hermann, Board Member
Candice Gimbel, Board Member
Michel Hulst, Board Member
Bruce Travers, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Conner, Office of Environmental Initiatives
Sam Brown, Office of Environmental Initiatives
Anthony Floyd, Office of Environmental Initiatives

Call to Order:
Chair McMahon called the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) to order at 5:44 p.m.

Roll Call:
A formal roll call took place confirming the members present as stated above.

Public Comment:
No public comment, no citizens present.

1. **Approval of Summarized Meeting Minutes -- Regular Meeting: February 18, 2015. Possible action** Chair McMahon

MOTION AND VOTE – ITEM #1:

Chair McMahon provided two minor revisions to the submitted draft minutes. Board Member Marsh provided a motion to approve the Summarized Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting February 18, 2015 with the submitted revisions; Chair McMahon seconded the motion; **motion APPROVED – 6 – 0.**

2. Administrative Report -Discussion

Tim Conner,

- House Bill 2570 & Senate Bill 1241
- Updates and opportunities – Proposed Bond Program
- Updated agenda posting requirements
- Possible outreach assistance for Water Softener Rebate program

3. Updated overview of progress of the Mayor's office for the reduction of idling at local schools during student pickup. Also recommendations and findings regarding a desired expansion of school bus service to local schools. – Discussion and possible action

Board Member
Gimbel & Tim
Conner

No Action taken – Mr. Conner informed the group that he had communicated with the Mayor's Chief of Staff Rachel Smetana, and she had indicated that she was working on convening a meeting with the Scottsdale Unified School District representatives, but no firm confirmation had been received.

4. Review status of criteria and process for proposed private/public sector *Environmental Achievement Recognition Program* – Discussion and possible action

Board Member
Hermann &
Board

No Action taken – Board Member Hermann reviewed the latest draft of the document and indicated that the latest revisions had been highlighted in that draft. Members of the board had made the following suggestions:

- Under potential eligibility move item one to Evaluation Criteria
- Under Evaluation Criteria add if the program had already won an Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Award, and / or a Scottsdale Environmental Design Award.
- Chair McMahon suggested separating Eligibility Requirements and Evaluation Criteria in to separate categories.
- Vice-Chair Person suggested that Eligibility requirements be eliminated and the items be moved into the Evaluation Criteria.
- Board Member Hermann stated he would make these revisions and send a revised document to Tim Conner for distribution to the rest of the Board.

5. **Proposal to provide EQAB support of 2015 building code amendments as related to Appendix U – Solar Ready Provisions for new residential buildings, High Efficiency Plumbing Fixtures, Residential Lighting Efficiency, and Bathroom Exhaust Fan Controls – Discussion and possible action**

Anthony Floyd

Anthony Floyd provided a brief presentation of the proposed amendments to the 2015 building codes that would support additional energy efficiency, water conservation and interior air quality. He requested that the board draft a letter of support to the Building Advisory Board of Appeals (BABA) for the incorporation of these amendments into their recommendation to City Council.

MOTION AND VOTE – ITEM #5:

Board Member Person moved that staff return to the next EQAB Regular Meeting with a draft of a letter of recommendation and support framing the building code amendments presented by Staff Member Floyd for the board's review and possible approval to be submitted to the Building Advisory Board of Appeals. A second was provided by Chair McMahon; **Motion APPROVED – 7 – 0.**

6. **Proposal to possibly develop a project scope for an “applied project” (possible capstone project) to the ASU School of Sustainability’s Master’s program. The scope would involve conducting a survey to better understand how the various communities have approached sustainability and environmental issues through organization, staffing, funding and other related metrics. This survey might be proposed at a valley wide level, state wide level or a regional level. – Discussion and possible action**

Chair McMahon

No Action taken – Chair McMahon described a possible project that would involve working with the ASU – Global Institute of Sustainability, Sustainable Cities Network (ASU-GIOS-SCN). The proposed project would benchmark several elements of sustainability programs of cities and towns in the regional area. She had developed this conceptual idea with the intention to

- Support the City’s Office of Environmental Initiatives Office
- Demonstrate how other cities are addressing and resourcing environmental issues and how Scottsdale stacks up against them
- Communicate what other cities are doing as best management practices compared to our current actions
- Demonstrate to the Mayor, Council and City Management,

that while we have been a leader in environmental initiatives in the past, we may be resting on our laurels, and

- Gain support for following through with the goals being developed in the General Plan 2035.

Chair McMahon stated that from her discussions with Anne Reichman, Program Manager of ASU-GIOS-SCN, this project would be best suited for a Barrett Honors undergrad or a masters in sustainability applied project. The “client” could be EQAB, EQAB and SCN or SCN. The first step would be for EQAB to develop a concept description. The description could then be shared with the SCN Steering Committee. Then Ms. Reichman would take it through ASU channels. If the project was picked up by a student, the student would then work with the “client” to develop a scope.

Chair McMahon provided the board with a draft template used by the School of Sustainability for applied projects. This document would be completed by the student with input from the “client.” She then requested that each of the Board Members provide their thoughts regarding the feasibility of bringing this project forward.

Board Member Hulst asked how the end results would be used.

Chair McMahon stated that initially the intent was to compare Scottsdale with other cities to provide the information to the Mayor, Council, and possibly the City Manager with the hope that they might decide that additional resources were needed if Scottsdale hoped to keep its reputation as an environmental leader. She added that the project could benefit other communities, with friendly competition lifting everyone higher.

Vice-Chair Person stated that he like the idea, but because the outcome would only be a snapshot in time, he was unsure if the results would be worth the effort required to gather and compile the data.

Board Member Hulst agreed with Vice-Chair Person, and provided the analogy of a data base requiring continual updating to keep it valid.

Board Member Hermann suggested that possibly by narrowing the scope to only the items that are desired to be presented to Council, the program could be useful.

Board Member Travers suggested that it appears that sustainability efforts are only being funded by a handful of the larger communities. He suggested that maybe if the field was narrowed to those larger communities, the focused effort might be more easily achieved.

Board member Gimbel stated that she likes the idea, but felt the Board would need to develop the scope appropriately. She would like the Board to partner with the SCN and felt that with some work the Board and the SCN could come up with a plan that would work.

Board Member Marsh stated that he agreed basically with Vice Chair Person, and Board Members Hulst and Travers. He thought the project would take a lot of energy and time and was not sure that EQAB would be able to support this program through its completion. He also said he was somewhat concerned if politically the targeted communities would feel comfortable in sharing their information.

Chair McMahon stated at this point she is not as keen on the project as she was when she began exploring the idea. She thinks the project has merit, but maybe not enough to justify the time commitment. She said she could not take the lead, but would be willing to help if another Board Member wanted to take the project on.

Board Member Gimbel said she would think about the project and time commitment.

7. Board discussion and possible action regarding the development of the 2015 EQAB work program topics list – Discussion and possible action

Chair McMahon
& Board
Members

No Action taken- Chair McMahon asked each member to submit their items to Mr. Conner. He could then assemble a listing in advance and forward the results to the Board prior to the next meeting.

8. Possible communication to Water Resources regarding additional comments for future revisions of the City's *Drought Management Plan* – Discussion and possible action

Vice-Chair
Person

No Action taken – Vice-Chair Person provided an overview of his draft letter to the Mayor and City Council voicing two concerns that the Board was unable to bring forward prior to the adoption of the now updated Drought Management Plan by City Council.

Specifically he read the following items from his draft:

- 1) The Drought Management Plan does not address the contingency of dwindling reserves if the current 15 year drought on the Colorado River continues. Recent studies indicate that the drought will continue for a number of years into the future. Regional planners are developing concepts for protecting the system itself from dwindling reserves, and we agree that concept should be incorporated into Scottsdale's Drought Management Plan. Protect Scottsdale's reserves for future generations.
- 2) The Drought Management Plan's various stages do not go far enough with engaging citizens on the pending severity of drought's impact on current and future Scottsdale residents. As currently constructed, the Plan shifts all of the impact of future shortages to the next generation. Current residents should share the burden of water shortages to reduce the severity of impacts to future generations.

Board Member Travers asked if each of the three phases of the plan identified how much reduction each phase would save.

Board Member Marsh answered that that information was in the plan.

Board Member Gimbel stated that she felt the document was somewhat an emotional document rather than just a factual one. She asked if the Board felt comfortable with challenging the Drought Management Plan since it was already approved by the City Council.

Multiple Board Members expressed concern of whether formal communication with the Mayor and City Council was appropriate due to the fact that the Council had just recently unanimously approved the Drought Management Plan as it is. They suggested that possibly some other more informal communication might be a more appropriate way to communicate the Vice-Chair's concerns with these two components that may not have been addressed adequately in the plan.

Vice-Chair Person agreed to reformat the document into a less formal communication and to possibly direct it to the Water Resources Executive Director. He agreed to bring back an updated draft to the Board's next meeting for review and discussion.

Chair McMahon stated she had obtained an answer to the question

Board Member Hulst raised at the February meeting regarding the Drought Management Team. She read the following response from the Water Resources Director:

The Drought Management Plan is not explicit on the timing for the assembly of the Drought Management Team to allow some flexibility. There are meetings/briefings going on in April that may help to define the timing of potential shortages on the Colorado River. I plan on assembling the Drought Management Team in May to be able to react to information as it is developing. I will set follow on meetings of the DMT on an as needed after the first meeting. I can assure you that, regardless of the schedule of the DMT meetings, I discuss the potential shortage situation on the Colorado River with my staff on a weekly basis.

Vice-Chair Person asked Board Member Hulst if he was wondering if an EQAB member might be a member of the DMT. Board Member Hulst said yes he would like to know if this might be included in the Vice-Chair's next draft of the informal communication regarding the Drought Management Plan.

Chair McMahon shared a portion of the Water Resources element (Introduction and Goal WR2) of the Task Force Recommended Draft of the Scottsdale General Plan 2035. She had highlighted suggestions made by the Board that were included in the draft regarding the topic of Drought Management. She suggested Vice-Chair Person incorporate these references and concepts into the document.

Board Member Travers asked questions related to if the City had identified total supply and demand projections in the plans. Board Member Marsh stated that the Water Resource Master Plan contained that and other more detailed information that might be relevant to his questions. He encouraged Board Member Travers to explore the Water Resources web pages on the City's website.

9. Update of progress on the environmental topical contact list as developed by the board in 2014 – Discussion

Vice-Chair
Person

Board Member Marsh provided a few updates to the list. Vice-Chair Person suggested that he bring an updated copy of the contact list to next month's meeting for discussion.

10. Board Members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items- Discussion

Chair McMahon
& Board
Members

Chair to provide discussion on State legislative tracking sources and discuss EQAB options regarding making recommendations on State legislation during the legislative session.

Board Member Marsh announced that he would be absent at the April 15, 2015 EQAB meeting.

11. Updates and reminders –

Chair McMahon
& Board
Members

- Next EQAB Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Community Design Studio 5:30 p.m.
- Next Green Building Lecture Thursday, April 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Granite Reef Sr. Center – Topic- Using Smart Technologies to Manage Energy and Water Use
- Additional announcements by Board Members & Staff

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, the Environmental Quality Advisory Board adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chair McMahon
& Board
Members